Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

1-93. (Cancelled)

94. (New) A polymer composition comprising:

a continuous hydrophobic phase comprising a mixture comprising:

a hydrophobic liquid phase; and

a hydrophobic thermoplastic elastomeric polymer;

absorbent hydrophilic microparticles dispersed within the hydrophobic liquid phase, wherein the hydrophilic microparticles comprise a crosslinked carboxylic acid-containing organic polymer; and

a bioactive agent having a particle size less than one micron dispersed in the hydrophilic microparticles, wherein the bioactive agent is selected from the group consisting of a metal oxide of silver, a metal oxide of copper, a metal oxide of zinc, and combinations thereof;

wherein the polymer composition is nonadherent and contains less than 1 wt% water based on the total weight of the composition.

95. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the continuous hydrophobic liquid phase comprises mineral oil.

96. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the absorbent hydrophilic microparticles have an average particle size of 10 microns or less, when in a nonhydrated form.

97. (New) The polymer composition of claim 96 wherein the absorbent hydrophilic microparticles have an average particle size of 1 micron or less, when in a nonhydrated form.

98. (New) The polymer composition of claim 97 wherein the absorbent hydrophilic microparticles have an average particle size of 0.5 micron or more when in a nonhydrated form.

99. (New) The polymer composition of claim 96 further comprising secondary absorbent particles having an average particle size of greater than 10 microns when in a nonhydrated form.

100. (New) The polymer composition of claim 99 wherein the secondary absorbent particles having an average particle size of greater than 10 microns are superabsorbent.

101. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the microparticles are superabsorbent.

102. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the carboxylic acid-containing organic polymer comprises a copolymer of sodium acrylate and acrylic acid.

103. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric polymer is selected from the group consisting of a styrene-isoprene block copolymer, a styrene-(ethylene/butylene) block copolymer, a styrene-(ethylene/propylene) block copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer, a styrene-butadiene block copolymer, a polyetherester, a poly-alpha-olefin based thermoplastic elastomeric polymer, an ethylene-1-octene copolymer, and combinations thereof.

104. (New) The polymer composition of claim 103 wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric polymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS), styrene-

butadiene-styrene (SBS), styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEPS), styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS), and combinations thereof.

105. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of a plasticizer, a crosslinking agent, a stabilizer, an extruding aid, a filler, a pigment, a dye, a swelling agent, a foaming agent, a chain transfer agent, and combinations thereof.

106. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the microparticles are present in an amount of 1 wt-% to 60 wt-%, based on the total weight of the polymer composition.

107. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the composition is stable.

108. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the composition is in the form of a hydrocolloid.

109. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 further comprising a swelling agent.

110. (New) The polymer composition of claim 94 wherein the bioactive agent is silver oxide.

111. (New) A medical article comprising the polymer composition of claim 94.

112. (New) A polymer composition comprising:

a continuous hydrophobic phase comprising a mixture comprising:

mineral oil; and

a hydrophobic thermoplastic elastomeric polymer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS), styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), styrene-

ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEPS), styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS), and combinations thereof;

absorbent hydrophilic microparticles dispersed within the mineral oil, wherein the hydrophilic microparticles comprise a crosslinked carboxylic acid-containing organic polymer; and

a bioactive agent having a particle size less than one micron dispersed in the hydrophilic microparticles, wherein the bioactive agent is selected from the group consisting of a metal oxide of silver, a metal oxide of copper, a metal oxide of zinc, and combinations thereof;

wherein the polymer composition is nonadherent and contains less than 1 wt% water based on the total weight of the composition.

113. (New) The polymer composition of claim 112 wherein the bioactive agent is silver oxide.

114. (New) The polymer composition of claim 112 wherein the carboxylic acid-containing organic polymer comprises a copolymer of sodium acrylate and acrylic acid.

115. (New) A medical article comprising the polymer composition of claim 112.

116. (New) A polymer composition comprising:

a continuous hydrophobic phase comprising a mixture comprising:

mineral oil; and

a hydrophobic thermoplastic elastomeric polymer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS), styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEPS), styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS), and combinations thereof;

absorbent hydrophilic microparticles dispersed within the mineral oil, wherein the hydrophilic microparticles comprise a crosslinked a copolymer of sodium acrylate and acrylic acid; and

silver oxide having a particle size less than one micron dispersed in the hydrophilic microparticles;

wherein the polymer composition is nonadherent and contains less than 1 wt% water based on the total weight of the composition.

117. (New) A medical article comprising the polymer composition of claim 112.